

Food Policy Council Meeting Minutes 12/04/13

Members in attendance: Kristin duBay- Horton, Alanna Kabel, Fred Kaskowitz, Margot Reynolds, Christine Stafstrom

Guests Present: Marie Desances, Frank Baxler

The meeting began at 5:45. Kristin did the welcome and everyone introduced themselves.

Maggie reviewed the past meeting minutes and moved to approve them, Christine seconded it. The vote was unanimous.

Kristin spoke on the food assessment conducted at farmers markets and community events in the summer of 2011. It is a more recent assessment of food security in Bridgeport funded through a lead poisoning prevention grant and touched on both lead poisoning and food security. Core outcomes of these efforts included:

- One in three Bridgeport residents runs out of food each month (CARES 2011)
- Half of all parents, elderly, and more than half of disabled residents run out of food each month (CARES 2011)
- There are three food deserts in Bridgeport (Downtown, East End, and South End).
- The East End is the longest standing food desert in CT – and has not had a full service grocer there for more than 30 years. It takes 40 minutes on a bus or a \$15 cab ride to get to the nearest full service grocer from the east end.

Alanna Kabel and Christine suggested that the city should be surveyed as a whole, also suggesting that we have one fact sheet with the city data. Kristin agreed to provide the data from the existing surveys to the group.

The group spoke on how to get people in the community to eat better by highlighting both access to food, improved food quality and enhanced education. The group asked for a list of those organizations working on these topics in Bridgeport and in the state as a whole.

The group came up with the following ideas for the *Community Conversations on Hunger* in order to make it successful and memorable:

- 1) Need to find out who the audiences are for both this event and for the food summit.
- 2) How to make it easy to shop local in order to strengthening the economy
- 3) Ice breakers- attempting to get people more engaged and relaxed
- 4) Maggie should introduce the food policy council and then introduce Frank Basler.
- 5) Allow the attendees 15-20 minutes to mingle.

6) Suggesting different color cards stating: what's missing? What are we doing? What should we be doing? And what can I do?

The second half the meeting focused on the planning for the food summit. Where it will be held, how many people are we inviting? Who should be the guest speaker?

The group wanted a list of the types of people we would be inviting to the summit and a draft invite.

Discussion of the small group work – who is confirming these? Can the co-chairs meet to discuss this?

The next Food Policy Council meeting will be held on January 15th 2014 – 5:30pm at Margaret Morton Government Center in Conference Room C.